

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) Publication number:

0 576 150 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: 93304079.2

(51) Int. Cl.⁵: **H04J 3/04**, H04L 7/033,
H04L 25/38

(22) Date of filing: 26.05.93

(30) Priority: 19.06.92 US 901312

Sunnyvale, CA 94088(US)

(43) Date of publication of application:
29.12.93 Bulletin 93/52

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(84) Designated Contracting States:
BE DE DK ES FR GB GR IE IT LU NL PT(86) Date of deferred publication of the search report:
13.04.94 Bulletin 94/15

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(54) **Digital serializer and time delay regulator.**

(57) A method and apparatus for providing a digitally self-calibrating delay element by launching a pulse of $1/2 T_b$ into a delay line and by determining the position at any instant of said pulse in the delay line

and by digitally adjusting the delay of said delay line, and a digital serializer with switches clocked by these pulses.

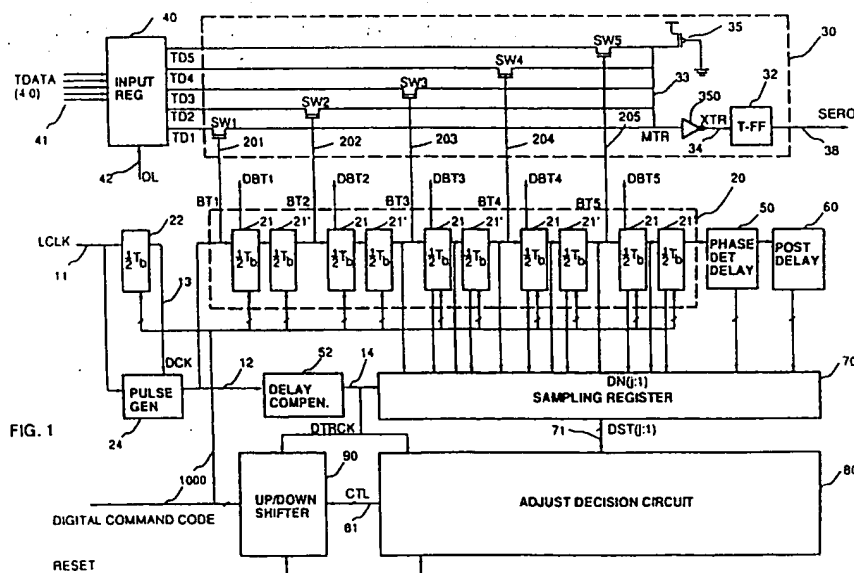


FIG. 1

EP 0 576 150 A3



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 93 30 4079

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.5)
A	DE-A-38 43 261 (ANT NACHRICHTENTECHNIK) * column 1, line 18 - line 35 * * column 2, line 3 - line 38 * * column 3, line 2 - line 41 * ---	1-6,8-12	H04J3/04 H04L7/033 H04L25/38
X	US-A-4 763 327 (JOHN M. FONTAINE) * column 1, line 61 - column 2, line 3 * * column 3, line 38 - line 46 * * column 4, line 40 - line 65 * ---	6	
A	EP-A-0 146 236 (SPERRY CORPORATION) * abstract * * figure 1 * ---	7	
A	WO-A-89 09520 (BELL TELEPHONE MANUFACTURING COMPANY) * page 1, line 2 - line 9 * * page 3, line 17 - page 4, line 35 * ---	1,10	
A	EP-A-0 384 918 (SIEMENS AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT) * page 1, line 24 - line 40 * * page 2, line 15 - page 4, line 14 * -----	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.5)
			H04J H04L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		3 February 1994	Van den Berg, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			

EPO FORM 1503 01.92 (P04C01)



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ All claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ Only part of the claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid.
- namely claims:
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions.

namely:

see sheet -B-

- ☒ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid.
- namely claims:
- ☐ None of the further search fees has been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.

namely claims:



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EP 93 30 4079 -B-

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims 1-5,10-12: Calibration of a delay line
2. Claims 6-9 : Digital data serializer

DOCKET NO: GR 98 P 2037

SERIAL NO: 09/756,084

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